संबंधित है और राजस्थान के लोग इसमें पूछना चाहते थे ...(व्यवधान)...

MR CHAIRMAN: I have called the next question.

**Waiting List of Telephones in the Country**

*84. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connection in various categories in the country;

(b) what is the plan for the year 1994-95 to clear up the backlog of waiting list;

(c) what is the expected investment from internal source, budgetary source and borrowings from local and international sources;

(d) what is going to be the loan and interest burden;

(e) what is the expected return on investment; and

(f) whether the tarrif rates would be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connection in various categories in the country as on 31.12.1993 is given below:

| | |
|---|---|
| OYT | 162945 |
| NON-OYT General | 2757347 |
| Special | 113574 |
| TOTAL: | 3033866 |

(b) The tentative Annual Plan for 1994-95 is to provide 14 lakhs telephone lines.

**The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.**

(c) The anticipated investment from internal resources, borrowings from local sources, and others are Rs. 5196.69 crores, Rs. 1335 crores, Rs. 219.31 crores respectively. No budgetary support is anticipated.

(d) The loan for the year 94-95 is Rs. 1335 crores. For the loans raised upto 93-94 and loans anticipated in 94-95, the likely interest burden in 94-95 may be approximately Rs. 1028.46 crores.

(e) The rate of return will be known only after the accounts for 1994-95 are closed.

(f) There is at present no proposal to revise the tarrif.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It could have been a statement.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, this could have been a statement. Now, only five minutes are left.

The answer to parts (a) and (b) of my question makes it clear that it will take a minimum of two years to wipe out the backlog of telephone demand. In the next two years there will be more demands. Therefore, this backlog will continue. He has agreed that telephone is a very important necessity today for commercial transactions, for agriculture, etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has worked out any scheme to overcome this backlog. I can understand that there is budgetary constraint and certain other limitations are also there. Telephone connection should be made available within one or two months. This backlog will increase in the coming years and it will create many problems. What is the Minister planning to do so that telephone connection is provided as soon as possible? A lot of black-marketing is taking place in this field. I know that people are paying huge amounts to get a telephone connection. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has got any scheme to wipe out this backlog.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, this issue has been agitating my mind since I took over this portfolio. I have been exploring the possibility of raising resources for installing more telephone lines. According to our Plan target, in the next year, 14 lakh new telephone lines will be installed. If I succeed in getting finances, I will try to wipe out this backlog. This issue is under the consideration of the Cabinet. I am sure that I will get the approval of the Cabinet. Now we are trying to get these equipments on lease also. In the coming year, I will try to wipe out this backlog. If I succeed in raising resources from these two sources which I have already mentioned....(*Interruption.*)

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Which are these two sources?

SHRI SUKH RAM: It is premature to say that. If I succeed in getting these resources, I will wipe out the entire waiting list by the end of the next year. If telephone connections are made available, then many people will apply. If I succeed in getting these targets, I will try to lessen the burden of the hon. Finance Minister by adding about Rs. 2,000 crores in our resource generation during this year and during the next year.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, this is not a defence secret. He can definitely tell us: Which are the two sources? I would like to know: Which are those two sources? Is he going in for private collaboration or foreign collaboration? He has said that he would try to wipe out the entire backlog. It is a good news. I am happy that the entire backlog will be wiped out. You will get credit for such a thing.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, this is a delicate issue. We are trying to disinvest about 20 per cent of the VSNL shares and those shares may be sold outside also. We are likely to get about Rs. 3,000 crores. If I succeed in getting this money, definitely I will fulfil my commitment, and the pressure which all Members of Parliament are facing today will be less.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

---

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को बैंकों द्वारा ऋण प्रदान किया जाना

*85. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों को ऋण प्रदान करने में हिचकिचाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान खंड विकास अधिकारियों के माध्यम से कितने व्यक्तियों को ऋण प्रदान किये गये और उक्त अवधि के दौरान कितने आवेदन-पत्रों का निपटान किया गया; और

(घ) इस कार्य को प्रभावी ढंग से निष्पादित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं?

**वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद):** (क) और (ख) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि उन्हें ऐसी कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है कि राष्ट्रीकृत बैंक, अनुसूचित जनजातियों को ऋण प्रदान करने में आनाकानी करते हैं।

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों में ब्लाक विकास अधिकारियों के माध्यम से जिन लोगों को ऋण प्रदान किए गए तथा साथ ही उसी अवधि के दौरान निपटाए गए आवेदनों की संख्या संबंधी सूचना, आंकड़ा सूचना प्रणाली से प्राप्त नहीं होती है। तथापि, पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों द्वारा प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जनजाति के लोगों को दिए गए